

## 9—Nathan the Prophet’s View of David: A Blind Man Walking

### 2 Samuel 12

Sin can do terrible things to us. One of the unique things about sin is its ability to blind us. There are some who are painfully aware of the sin in their own lives. They see it. They feel its consequences. They have lived through its damages to their own lives and in the lives of others.



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“So David said to Nathan, ‘I have sinned against the Lord.’”

2 Samuel 12:13a (NKJV)

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embarrassing our faces tend to get warm and we “blush.” Yet, it is possible to get to a point when the humiliation of sin does not bother us anymore. Timothy once wrote of *“the insincerity of liars whose consciences are seared”* (1 Timothy 4:2). On some big horse or cattle farms, the owner’s horses or cattle are branded with a red-hot branding iron. While this brings momentary pain, the skin where this iron has seared often becomes desensitized to feeling. Timothy knew that some people can become desensitized to their sin. As Jesus wrote, quoting Isaiah, *“seeing they do not see”* (Matthew 13:13-15). In other words, we can become blind to our own sins.

Thankfully, spiritual blindness is not perfectly parallel to physical blindness. A physically blind man may have no hope to ever see on earth again. Yet, God attempts to correct our spiritual blindness through the means of God’s Word and the messengers who deliver it. The word of God is God’s message to man. It is God’s attempt to see things as He sees them. As Hebrews 4:12 says, *“the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword...and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart”* (NKJV).

In 2 Samuel 12 we find King David just following a series of sins—sexual impurity, lies, murder. David has been involved in a massive cover-up and he may very well think he is free and clear of his sin. Yet, God sends His prophet, Nathan, to reveal, rebuke, and reconcile David to God. At some point in time, everybody needs a Nathan. Let’s learn from this bold prophet of God.

### Discussion Questions:

1. How did the Lord feel about David’s sins listed in 2 Samuel 11 (see 11:27)? Who does the Lord send to confront David (2 Samuel 12:1)? Why might this have been an intimidating role?

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2. In what creative way does Nathan begin by trying to open David's eyes (2 Samuel 12:1-4)? How does David respond to this picture Nathan paints for David (12:5-6)? Does this approach work?

3. As Nathan turns the tables on David, what does he say to him (12:7-12)? How does David respond to this powerful rebuke (2 Samuel 12:13)? Were there still consequences to his actions (12:13-15)? Is rebuke kind?

4. What difficult thing must happen before we can make a course correction (Psalm 51:1-4)? How important is "confession" to this process (see also Psalm 32:5; Proverbs 28:13; James 5:16; 1 John 1:9)?

5. Hotseat question: your friend, who claims to be a Christian, has been hanging out with the wrong crowd. You've seen some things on social media you know are inappropriate. How can you use the "Nathan Method" to address this situation with your friend? Should you assume someone else will do it? Assume they'll never listen to you?...

**Key Lessons:**

- Everybody needs a Nathan at some point in their life. Make a decision now to be that person for others who need you and to be humble when you need a Nathan!
- Sin can be forgiven by God, but it may still trigger a series of earthly consequences which cannot be undone (cp. 12:10-11, 13-14).
- King David was willing to confess his sin so he could be forgiven. King Jesus was willing to bear our sin to forgive us.

**Additional Notes:** \_\_\_\_\_

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